

Remarks

Reconsideration is requested in view of the preceding amendments and the following remarks.

By this amendment, claims 78 and 82 are amended and claim 81 is cancelled without prejudice. Upon entry of this amendment, claims 51-53, 72-80, and 82 are pending.

Claim 82 is amended to correct an obvious typographical error.

The allowance of claims 51-53, 72-77, and 82 is acknowledged.

Claim 81 was indicated as being allowable if amended to recite the features of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 78 corresponds to claim 81 amended in this manner, and claim 81 is cancelled without prejudice. In view of this amendment, claim 78 and its dependent claims 79-80 and 82 are all properly allowable.

Claims 78-80 stand rejected as allegedly anticipated by Takemura, U.S. Patent 6,218,233 (“Takemura”). This rejection is moot in view of the amendment of claim 78.

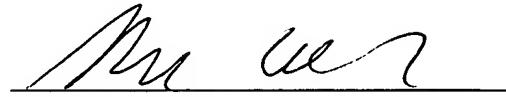
A Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c) was submitted on July 22, 2004 disclosing two references cited by the U.S. Patent Office in a related divisional application. Consideration of these references is requested.

In view of the preceding, all pending claims are in condition for allowance and action to such end is requested. If any questions remain, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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